

**United States Environmental Protection Agency
Criminal Investigation Division
Investigative Activity Report**

Case Number:

1000-0494

Case Title:

Cooke Aquaculture Fish Farm Release

Subject of Report:

2018-10-15 Closure of Cooke Aquaculture Investigation

Reporting Office:

Seattle, WA, Area Office

Activity Date:

October 15, 2018

Reporting Official and Date:

[REDACTED]

Agent

15-OCT-2018, Signed by: [REDACTED]

Approving Official and Date:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

15-OCT-2018, Approved by: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

SYNOPSIS

On October 15, 2018, SA [REDACTED] closed the Cooke Aquaculture Investigation.

DETAILS

On October 15, 2018, I closed the Cooke Aquaculture Investigation.

This investigation was initiated after EPA CID became aware of a large Atlantic Salmon release in Puget Sound, within Skagit County Washington. These Atlantic Salmon were being raised in aquaculture net pens, owned by Cooke Aquaculture. Cooke Aquaculture is a Canadian-based aquaculture company, which is one of the largest in the world.

The subsequent investigation revealed that the large amount Atlantic Salmon were released into the waters of Puget Sound due to a lack of maintenance of both the net pen structure and the aquaculture nets attached to the structure. A series of large tides broke one of the Cooke net pens and released approximately 200,000 Atlantic Salmon. This release was in direct conflict with their NPDES permit and a violation of the Clean Water Act.

Due to some recent litigation involving the EPA Civil division, it was decided by both RCEC Karla Perrin and members of the United States Attorney's Office in Seattle, [REDACTED].

During the case closure, the case agent confirmed the following information:

All evidence gathered during the investigation has been returned or destroyed.

EPA Suspension and Debarment: Not applicable

Search Warrant Material: No search warrants were served in this investigation.

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Electronic Case File / Emails: Copied to DVD's and placed within the EPA CID Case File.

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